Testimony in SUPPORT of:

Bill # **1017**: An Act Concerning Election Administration.

Bill # **6578**: An Act Concerning Participation in Electoral Process

Submitted: March 7, 2021

Dear GAE Committee Co-Chairs Sen. Flexer and Rep. Fox, Vice Chairs Sen. Haskell and Rep. Thomas, and Ranking Members Sen. Sampson and Rep. Mastrofrancesco and Members of the GAE Committee,

The basic questions at this point in Connecticut's history are these: Do we as a state believe wholeheartedly in a fully representative government – yes or no? Do we as a state want to encourage and facilitate as full as possible participation in our electoral process – yes or no? These are the bottom-line questions the General Assembly will be addressing in deciding on actions regarding voting accessibility and convenience. The only conceivable answers to those questions must be, "Yes." A state that truly values representative government must do all that it can to simplify and advance the voting process in pursuit of full participation.

Please make voting convenient and accessible for ALL CT voters by voting YES in SUPPORT of Bill # 1017: An Act Concerning Election Administration to make the absentee ballot drop boxes permanent, and enable voters to request absentee ballots via an online application and YES in SUPPORT of Bill # 6578: An Act Concerning Participation in Electoral Process for automatic voter registration at the DMV and to restore voting rights to parolees.

Sincerely,

Mary Kathy Hamily

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